LIGNUM NEPHRITICUM 1694
CASMUNAR 1693

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SOME

OBSERVATIONS

Made upon the

ROOT

CALLED

Caſmunar,

IMPORTED FROM

The EAST-INDIES:

SHEWING

Its Nature and Vertues above any other as yet written of, in Curing *Apoplexies*, *Convulſions*, *Palſies*, *Lethargies*, *Tremblings*, *Fitts of the Mother*, *Giddineſs in the Head*, and all Diſtempers of the Brain and Nerves.

Publiſhed by a Doctor of Phyſick in *Gloceſter-ſhire.*

LONLON, Re-printed in the Year 1693.

SOME

OBSERVATIONS

Made upon the ROOT called

Caſmunar,

Imported from the *Eaſt-Indies.*

THis rare and excellent Root being ſent me by my Brother, who is Factor to the *Eaſt India* Company, and it being ſo wonderfully commended, and approved of by the *Brachmanes*, for its great Cures, I could not chooſe but publiſh it to the World, for the Advantage of Mankind.

The *Brachmanes* are a ſort of *Indian* Phyſicians, much celebrated not only by the Natives, but by Foreign Merchants that reſide there, the *Engliſh* preferring them before their own Countrey Doctors, when they labour under any Diſtempers. They are of the Sect of the *Pythagoreans*, and as they eat no Fleſh, but are nouriſht by the Produce of the Earth, ſo they rather chooſe to cure Diſeaſes by Plants

than Minerals. They have Great skill in Herbs, and know their Natures, as if they had been instructed by *Adam* or *Solomon*.

This Root is warm but not hot, of a very temperate Quality; it consists of very fine, subtil, spirituous parts, and hath a peculiar Odour, distinct from any that I ever smelled to: It exceedingly recreates the Vital and Animal Spirits, and by its Taste and Colour may easily be known to be Aperative and Cephalick, comforting the Brain and Nerves, and putting the Animal Spirits into Order, when they have been in a Tumult by any Passion or Convulsive motions.

When persons are in Convulsive Fitts, Nature seems to be as it were in an Earthquake, and in its last Agony; and by the frequent Returns of such Fitts, those Endowments which distinguish us from Brute Creatures, are in a great measure lost: our Understanding, that great Light, is darkned, and our Memory that excellent Repository is broken, and like a Sive lets through whatever is put into it.

A Gentlewoman who had a Concussion of her Head, caused by a Fall down Stairs, with great Debility of her Spirits, was Cured by this Root, to her and my great admiration; and although whilest her Vapours were upon her, she would not be perswaded but that she was dying; yet afterwards she would smile at those Gentlewomen who talked so, and would name her self as an Example of so great Folly.

Per-

Perhaps it is the beſt Medicine in the World for Women in Childbed, or any who have received prejudice by Frights, they quickly reſtore them to the uſe of their Senſes, and make them lively and chearfull.

A Shop-keepers Wife at *Glocester*, who had dreadfull Fits of the Mother, with unuſual Symptoms, and great Oppreſſions, almoſt ſtrangled with ſuffocating Vapours in her Throat, was cured, that they have not returned, nor I ſee no ſuſpicion of it. But I muſt ſay, that I have ever found the Spirit, the Tincture, and the Extract drawn out of this Root, far more effectual than any Compoſition whatſoever.

It's very lamentable to obſerve, three thouſand in a Year tumbled into their Graves by theſe Diſtempers, as we find by the Bills of Mortality.

When our Compaſſionate Saviour was upon Earth, he demonſtrared his Divine Power in the Cure of theſe Diſtempers more than in any other; becauſe labouring under theſe Diſeaſes, we are neither fit for the ſervice of God or Man, nor are capable of the Exerciſe of Reaſon or Faith.

I could tell you of a Learned Divine, whoſe Diſorder in his Head was ſo great, cauſed by Cephalick Diſtempers and Vertiginous Fumes, that he could not preach, being attended with frequent Convulſive Motions in all his Nerves, yet by the uſe of the Drops drawn out of this Root, was perfectly cured.

Ma-

Many young Children have been miraculouſly reſtored by it from Convulſion Fits, both in the Brain and Bowels: For as Dr. *Willis* well obſerves, The Griping in the Guts is but an affection of the Nerves in thoſe parts, and no Remedies ſo efficacious in that Diſeaſe, as thoſe that ſtrengthen the ſame.

I cannot chooſe but recommend it to all Nurſes, to drop into their Childrens Victuals, it being ſo exceeding temperate and pleaſant, that I have known them take it, when they have refuſed all other Forms of Medicines.

By this wonderful Root ſome Children when they have been Toothing, were cured only by Rubbing their Gumms with the Electuary: Others by the Nurſes taking the Drops in all her Drink, for which Cauſe it's called by ſome the *Childrens Guardian.*

I know a young Gentleman, who being ſubject to Convulſions from his Cradle, and could have no relief from the beſt Remedies in vulgar uſe, but was to the grief of his Relations caſt ſometimes into the Fire, and ſometimes into the Water, by the Force of this Diſeaſe; and at laſt by the uſing of theſe Drops every New and Full Moon, was reſtored, and Married a Wife, and none of his Children ever had Fitts.

A poor Old Woman alſo who was many years afflicted with Fits of the Mother, that the Common

mon People thought her Poſſeſs'd, her Symptoms of Skreeching, and ſtrange Motions and Diſtortions were ſo terrible; yet by the Uſe of this Remedy found great Advantage, and recommended it to all ſhe knew.

I am credibly inform'd by an Eminent Chyrurgion who came from the *Indies*, that the Inhabitants in thoſe Countreys Anoynt their bodies with a mixture of the Powder of this Root, and only by that External Application cure many Diſtempers, and live to a great Age.

An able Phyſician of my Acquaintance boyls the ſliced Root in all his Broath, as a great Secret againſt Gripings in his Guts and Bowels proceeding from the Wind Collick, and finds Admirable Advantage.

I am well aſſured that there is an Hoſpital in *Italy*, for the Cure of Lunatical perſons, where the Doctors uſe this Root with wonderful ſucceſs, it mightily Relieving all Diſcompoſures of the Brain.

To ſee Perſons foaming at mouth, Tearing their Hair, beating their Breaſts, Weeping, and Wailing, and Gnaſhing their teeth, is a Melancholy Proſpect, and may well move pity: And therefore none but the Devil or his Agents can Envy mankind the Knowledge of ſo uſeful a Remedy.

Let none deſpiſe this Root becauſe it is a ſimple uncompounded thing, for I remember the Great Lord *Bacon* reckons it amongſt one of the Deficients in Phy-

Phyſick, that we ſtudy Art more than Nature, and Elaborate Methods more than ſimple Medicins. Whereas nine parts in ten of the known World truſt to the latter more than the former.

A Captain of a Ship who is Extreamly troubled with Griping in his Guts, and Cramps in his Bowels, conſtantly procures Eaſe, only by Chewing a bit of this Root and Swallowing his Spittle.

I know a modeſt diſcreet young Gentleman, that on a ſudden when he is Writing, or Talking with a Friend, or at Meals, ſhall be ſurpriz'd with Dreadful Convulſive Motions, as if he were blown up with a train of Gun-Powder; and he finds that the very Odour of this Root carried about him, and often applyed to his Noſtrils, prevents many fits, better than Spirit of *Sal Armoniack*, Amber, or Hartshorn, which are too ſtrong for him.

Twenty Drops of the Tincture are to be taken every Morning in Tea, the ſame Quantity of the Spirits every Afternoon in Mum, and alſo twenty Drops of the Extract at Night in Chocolate, for Men or Women; half the Quantity for Children.

FINIS.